

# Distinguished Alumni



Elmer K. "Kim" Nelson, BA '43, MA '49 JD '48, won the Distinguished Alumnus Award in the humanities at Homecoming this year.

Nelson is dean of the University of Southern California's School of Public Administration, oldest and largest of its kind in the nation. On the USC faculty since 1958, he earned his doctorate there the following year. He is currently on special assignment with the Governor of California in an advisory capacity.

The nephew of June Downey, an early head of the UW psychology department, Nelson taught at UW before going to USC and was an associate professor of criminology and head of the criminology program at the University of British Columbia.

Frequently called to Washington on special assignments, he served in 1966-67 as associate director of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice.



Edward C. Bryant, BS '38, MS '40, received the award in the field of business and industry.

Bryant is president of Westat, Inc., a statistical firm in Washington, D.C., which is one of the leading statistical consultant firms in the nation. It is now a subsidiary of American Can Company.

Holding a Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University, Bryant was head of the statistics department at UW from 1947 to 1961. He has also been named an outstanding alumnus of the College of Commerce and Industry.

Bryant is the author of a textbook in statistical analysis and another book on information resources published in 1971.

From UW Bryant went to Tempe, Ariz., where he was visiting professor of mathematics. He established the Westat firm in Denver in 1961. His wife Virginia is also a UW alumna, and the couple has two children.



Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award in the field of science was Creighton Burk, BA '52, MA '53.

Burk is now director of the Marine Science Institute of the University of Texas and chairman of the department of marine sciences. He took this position shortly before coming to the campus to receive the award.

Previously he had been chief geologist for Mobil Oil Corp. and manager of regional geology for the company.

In 1968 he was consultant to the U.S. Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources, and is now a member of the advisory committee to the Navy Oceanographer.

He was on the scientific staff during the pioneering cruise of the "Glomar Challenger" which drilled into the sea floor in more than 17,500 feet of water as part of a project supported by the National Science Foundation.



Richard A. Wahl, BS '34, was honored at Homecoming for his public service. He was part of the US Patent Office in Washington, D.C. for 38 years.

He advanced in the agency until in 1964 he became superintendent of Patent Examining Operations, the highest career position with the agency. He was then appointed and re-appointed assistant commissioner for the Patent Office, a political appointive position.

He received both the silver and gold medals from the U.S. Department of Commerce for excellence in his department.

After he retired in 1973 he spent six months in Brazil assisting in the modernization of that country's patent office.

Wahl holds a law degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He spent many months as the U.S. representative to numerous European commissions on cooperative patent systems.